

the other cheek. Actions have consequences. We had an arrogant and irresponsible action: booting the leading champion of human rights off the U.N. Human Rights Commission. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and I am proposing a modest response, a temporary withholding of a portion of our dues. Our U.N. fellow members have an option. If they would like to get this payment, they will vote the United States back on to the Commission. If they do not, it will cost them \$244 million. And I urge France or Austria or anybody else to come up with that money, because certainly the United Nations needs those funds.

I think it is important that we do not engage in blaming the United States first. We are the least responsible party for this action. The people who are responsible for this action are the Chinese, who went around trying to get votes against us by economic incentives and by threats; the Cubans, who did the same; and a number of our quote-unquote "friends," who shall remain nameless.

Mr. Chairman, I proudly join my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) in this measure. This will teach countries a lesson: actions have consequences. They have taken an irresponsible action, and we are giving them an opportunity to rectify it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY).

(Mr. SWEENEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to respond as well to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), my friend and colleague, from the perspective that I am pleased to join the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) as a sponsor on this amendment.

The notion that what we are doing here is somehow a violation of fair play is really quite foreign to me at this point. What we are doing in bringing this amendment forward is disallowing the Libyans, the Chinese, those in Sudan and those who throughout the world want to sit in judgment of human rights violations and sit in judgment by excluding and pushing the United States out from that conversation.

This amendment is about fighting and protecting human rights throughout the world, Mr. Chairman. Secret ballots at the United Nations enable human rights violators and those who impede our ability to combat international narcotics and other important causes, they push us from that debate and that argument.

So I am proud to come forward and offer this amendment, because after all, the greatest sense of leverage we have as a Nation is the fact that we contribute 25 percent for the activities

at the United Nations. To not have the United States sitting on the Human Rights Commission is a travesty.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I am outraged by what happened at the United Nations. I am as outraged as anyone. I am cochair of the U.N. Working Group, along with the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH). The U.N. certainly is not always right, and in this instance they are absolutely wrong and it is absolutely outrageous.

But in trying to weigh what our reaction should be, I come down on the opposite side of the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY), my good friends, because I do not believe that trying to blackmail nations into supporting us ever really works. I think that that is really not the way to go.

I agree with everything the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) said, and I have more respect for him than almost anyone else in this body when it comes to these matters, and he was right on the money in everything he says; but I just think that our reaction ought to be different.

There has been a buildup of anger at the United States because frankly, we have not been paying our dues. I know we are on track to do it now, but it was a long struggle; and it was many, many years before we went on track. There has been anti-U.N. rhetoric from this body and in other places, and there is some anger at the fact that we have not ratified a convention on the rights of a child, banning land mines, the Kyoto Protocol and other treaties as well. That is not an excuse for the U.N., but the question is, how do we react? How do we react to this at all?

I do not believe that these votes at the U.N. should be linked to the payment of arrears. We owe them money, and we ought to pay it. We ought to express our outrage. There are other ways to do it. I do not think that withholding the money is the right way to go.

Jeanne Kirkpatrick, for whom I have enormous respect, said, frankly, somebody was not watching the store. We could point fingers at everybody and do a lot of fingerprinting all the way around, but that really does not have any beneficial effect. We have made our point known. The administration, the Bush administration, opposes this amendment. We have to now decide what the best way to go is. I just think that this may do us a lot of good in expressing our personal pique, but I think in the long run it is counterproductive.

So I reluctantly urge a "no" vote on the amendment.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my friend and colleague.

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I have long supported the premise that the United States should participate in the United Nations and that if we want to maintain our leadership role that we ought to pay our dues. I must say, therefore, that I am ambivalent on the means used in this resolution, but I am not ambivalent at all on the sentiments and the point that it makes.

I rise, therefore, in support of the intent of this resolution. I have not decided, frankly, how I am going to vote, but there ought to be 435 of us who, in the strongest possible terms, say that this was an act of a commission that knows that it is the United States day after day, week after week, month after month, in every forum in the world, the OSCE, the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and I participate in on a year-round basis; the chairman of the committee has participated in that heavily, as has the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the former chairman; and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

This was an act perpetrated, frankly, by the abusers of human rights, by those who would like to hide the abuses that exist in so many parts of this world; that would like to hide the shortcomings to international standards that so many nations demonstrate. That ought not to be left to stand. The exclusion of the United States from the Human Rights Commission, the one Nation that consistently raises the issue of human rights around the world, and yes, even in the United States.

So I applaud the sponsors of this resolution for raising for the rest of the world and for our country how critically we view this issue.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the distinguished majority leader.

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Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HYDE) for yielding the time to me.

Let me say, Mr. Chairman, this is a serious matter. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking member, for bringing this to the floor.

Mr. Chairman, I look around this Chamber and I see the Members of this body that have traveled the globe out of concern to speak up for human rights, to reach out a hand of comfort and support and encouragement for the